

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143078

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERLIN 1075 ACTION BONN INFO
SECSTATE LONDON PARIS MOSCOW NATO CINCEUR CINCUSAFE
USELMLO 26 JUNE.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 1075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ETRN, WB, US, UK, FR, VR, GG

SUBJECT: SOVIET DEMARCHE RE BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

1. ON JUNE 24 SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR RODIN DELIVERED
TO CHAIRMAN POLAD (FRENCH) ORAL DEMARCHE SETTING FORTH
SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO ESTABLISHMENT NEW INTERNATIONAL
SERVICES BY ALLIED CARRIERS VIA CORRIDORS. FRENCH
POLAD OBSERVED THAT FLIGHT OF ALLIED AIRCRAFT IN
CORRIDORS WHOSE SAFETY HAD NOT BEEN GUARANTEED BY
SOVIET ELEMENT IN BASC WAS WELL-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE
AND RODIN RESPONDED THAT FLIGHTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES WERE
QUITE DIFFERENT MATTERS.

2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL MISSION TRANSLATION OF SOVIET
DEMARCHE: "ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, CERTAIN WESTERN
AIRLINE COMPANIES INTEND TO OPEN NEW REGULAR, DIRECT AIR
LINES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND EUROPEAN CITIES SUCH AS
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VIENNA, ZURICH AND COPENHAGEN. FOR THIS PURPOSE IT IS

INTENDED TO USE FOR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS THE BERLIN AIR ROUTES WHICH, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FOUR POWER DECISIONS, HAVE A SPECIAL REGIME; THEY NEVER WERE INTENDED AND CANNOT BE INTENDED FOR REGULAR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION.

"THE SOVIET SIDE HAS MORE THAN ONCE CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN (ENGLISH, FRENCH) AUTHORITIES THE FACT THAT FLIGHTS OF THE COMMERCIAL AIRLINES OF THE THREE POWERS IN THE BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH EITHER THE SPIRIT OR THE LETTER OF FOUR POWER DECISIONS ON AIR COMMUNICATION WITH THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN. THE AMERICAN (ENGLISH, FRENCH) AUTHORITIES CANNOT FAIL TO REALIZE THAT THESE FLIGHTS ESSENTIALLY ARE AN ATTEMPT TO ABUSE THE APPROPRIATE FOUR POWER DECISIONS AND TO IGNORE THE SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE GDR IN ITS AIR-SPACE.

"THE INTENT TO OPEN NEW DIRECT LINES BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND A NUMBER OF WESTERN EUROPEAN STATES INDICATES THAT THERE IS AN OBVIOUS TENDENCY TO EXPAND THE ILLEGAL WAYS OF USING THE BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS. IT IS ALSO PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT BY TAKING SUCH STEPS, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO REACH MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECISIONS WHICH GUARANTEE THE NORMAL TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS OF WEST BERLIN.

"THE SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT WOULD BE FORCED TO VIEW ANY ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH ANY NEW DIRECT AIR LINES BETWEEN THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES AS A STEP INTENDED TO UNILATERALLY MODIFY THE SITUATION AS IT EXISTS IN THE AREA OF APPLICATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. FLIGHTS UTILIZING SUCH ROUTES WOULD HAVE AN ILLEGAL CHARACTER WITH ALL THE RESULTANT CONSEQUENCES.

"INFORMING THE AMERICAN (ENGLISH, FRENCH) SIDE OF THIS MATTER, THE SOVIET SIDE EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE AUTHORITIES OF THE USA (ENGLAND, FRANCE) WILL GIVE THE NECESSARY ATTENTION TO THE PRESENT DEMARCHE, WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BASED ON THE DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE NORMAL AND TRANQUIL SITUATION IN AND AROUND WEST BERLIN."

3. SOVIET APPROACH WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED AS FOLLOW-UP TO CONVERSATION REPORTED BERLIN 914 (NOTAL) AND IS CONSONANT WITH FORMER COUNSELOR BELETSKIY'S COMMENTS TO US POLAD MARCH 14 (PARA 5, BERLIN 478). IN OUR VIEW ALLIED RESPONSE

SHOULD BE LIMITED TO BRIEF ORAL REJECTION BY CHAIRMAN
POLAD OF SOVIET POSITION IN ORDER TO AVOID PROLONGED
AND UNPRODUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH COULD LEAD TO
BROADER DISCUSSION OF BERLIN AIR ISSUES, WHICH ALLIES
ARE AGREED WOULD BE UNWISE.

4. USCOB CONCURS.KLEIN UNQUOE SISCO

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